

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the service and sacrifice of Captain Arthur E. Halfpapp
2 as he is returned home to this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, A native of Steelton, Pennsylvania, Captain Arthur
4 E. Halfpapp was assigned to the 87th Fighter Squadron, 79th
5 Fighter Group, during World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, During his 103rd mission, on April 24, 1945, Captain
7 Halfpapp departed Cesenatico, Italy, on an armed reconnaissance
8 mission, intending to bomb and strafe motor transport targets
9 southeast of Alberone, Italy; and

10 WHEREAS, Flying in a P-47 Thunderbolt, Captain Halfpapp led
11 his section of the flight parallel to the Po River; and

12 WHEREAS, Moving from west to east, the flight dove toward the
13 target of 8 to 10 vehicles; and

14 WHEREAS, At approximately 2,000 feet, Captain Halfpapp's P-47
15 started into a roll and continued directly into the ground,
16 crashing in an inverted position and immediately bursting into
17 flames; and

1 WHEREAS, Shortly after the crash, the flight leader circled
2 the burning wreckage for 10 minutes and failed to see any signs
3 of human life; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1947, the American Graves Registration Service
5 units searched the entire length of the Po River, including the
6 north and south banks, and were unable to locate Captain
7 Halfpapp's crash site or recover his identifiable remains; and

8 WHEREAS, On October 5, 2014, founding members of the Italian
9 association, Archeologi dell'Aria, contacted the Defense
10 Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office to report the group's
11 excavation of a crash site possibly associated with Captain
12 Halfpapp's incident and the recovery of possible human remains
13 and identification material; and

14 WHEREAS, Further investigation of the crash site confirmed
15 that belongings and remains were that of Captain Halfpapp; and

16 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp is a highly decorated combat pilot
17 who gave his life for his country during World War II,
18 completing more than 100 combat missions, and was part of the
19 June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion; and

20 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp was also one of the first fighter
21 bomber pilots of the initial attack on German-occupied France
22 and also one of the first to raid enemy bases in Germany and
23 Austria; and

24 WHEREAS, Captain Halfpapp's medals include the Distinguished
25 Flying Cross, Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern
26 Campaign Medal, Bronze Star and World War II Victory Medal; and

27 WHEREAS, The repatriated remains of a war hero, Captain
28 Arthur E. Halfpapp, will be returned to the United States and
29 placed to rest at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on April
30 14, 2016; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the service
2 and sacrifice of Captain Arthur E. Halfpapp; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives welcome Captain
4 Arthur E. Halfpapp as he returns home, for the final time, to
5 this Commonwealth.

